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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Fish and Wildlife Service****[50 CFR Part 17]****Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Review of the Status of Ten Birds and Two Mammals from Guam****AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.**ACTION:** Review of status of ten Guamanian birds and two Guamanian mammals.

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**SUMMARY:** Upon petition from the Government of Guam, the Service is reviewing the status of ten birds and two mammals from Guam to determine if they should be listed as Endangered or Threatened species, and their Critical Habitat determined. The Government of Guam submitted substantial data with their petitions to indicate that all of these birds and mammals may be threatened by various factors and that listing them pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and determining their Critical Habitat, may be an important element in assuring their survival. These data are summarized in the following notice. The Service welcomes additional data on their status

as well as information which could lead to Critical Habitat determinations for each of the species under review.

**DATES:** Information regarding the status of these species should be submitted on or before June 17, 1979.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments and data submitted in connection with this review should be sent to the Director (OES), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. John L. Spinks, Jr., Office of Endangered Species, Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240, Phone: (703) 235-2771.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

The Service has received two petitions from the Government of Guam to list certain species from that island as Endangered species. The first of these petitions was sent on August 28, 1978, by the Honorable Ricardo J. Bordallo, then Governor of Guam, and requested the Service to list the following species: Marianas fruit dove (*Ptilinopus roseicapillus*), Marianas gallinule (*Gallinula chloropus guami*), Guam rail (*Rallus owstoni*), edible nest swiftlet (*Collocalia inexpectata bartschi*), Marianas fruit bat (*Pteropus mariannus mariannus*), and the little Marianas fruit bat (*Pteropus tokudae*). The second petition was sent by the Honorable Joseph E. Ada, Acting governor of Guam, on February 27, 1979. It petitioned the Service to list the Micronesian kingfisher (*Halcyon cinnamomina cinnamomina*), Micronesian broadbill (*Myiagra oceanica freycineti*), white throated ground dove (*Gallicolumba xanthonura xanthonura*), cardinal honey-eater (*Myzomela cardinalis saffordi*), Marianas crow (*Corvus kubaryi*), and bridled white-eye (*Zosterops conspicillata conspicillata*).

Data concerning the status of these species submitted in support of the petitions are summarized as follows:

**Marianas fruit dove.**—Excessive loss of habitat due to urbanization with substantial clearing of forested areas taking place in the last 15 years. The species was hunted on Guam until 1969; it is still illegally taken or accidentally shot during the hunting season for other species. Population on Guam, 100 birds; total population on Guam, Rota, Tinian and Saipan, less than 500 birds.

**Marianas gallinule.**—Loss of suitable freshwater wetlands through draining for agriculture has caused a decline in

this species. Currently, less than 100 are found on Guam, and fewer than 50 on Tinian; the population on Saipan and Pagan is unknown.

**Guam rail.**—Introduced predators have played havoc on this flightless species. Only between 500 and 1000 birds continue to survive on Guam.

**Edible nest swiftlet.**—Heavy use of insecticides and herbicides during and following World War II has caused a major decline. Currently one to two hundred are found on Guam; unknown numbers occur on Rota, Tinian and Saipan.

**Marianas fruit bat.**—Two major factors relating to decrease in populations are habitat destruction and illegal hunting on Guam. Less than 100 occur on Guam; numbers elsewhere are unknown.

**Little Marianas fruit bat.**—Illegal hunting and loss of habitat are the two most significant factors responsible for the decline. Extremely small numbers are reported for Guam.

**Micronesian kingfisher.**—Loss of much of the native limestone forest of Guam has caused the decline. Numbers are estimated at between 100 and 150 birds.

**Micronesian broadbill.**—Decline has been reported owing to clearing of much of the native habitat for urban development. Fewer than 100 birds remain on Guam.

**White-throated ground dove.**—Clearing of the native habitat due to increased urbanization has been the primary factor in the decline. Other factors are the use of defoliants in World War II rendering much of habitat useless to native bird populations; damage from super typhoon Pamela in 1976; and illegal and accidental shooting during the hunting season for other birds. Less than 100 of these doves remain on Guam; numbers unknown on other islands.

**Cardinal honey-eater.**—On Guam, the loss of most of the native limestone forest has restricted the species to the remaining areas of pristine limestone forest occurring in the northern cliffline. Heavy spraying of insecticides in World War II caused the virtual disappearance of the bird in the southern two thirds of the island. 100 to 200 birds occur now on Guam; numbers elsewhere unknown.

**Marianas crow.**—Loss of native forest habitat on Guam due to increased urbanization. Hunters and poachers shoot crows because they are considered pests. 100-150 birds are estimated to survive.

**Bridled-white-eye.**—Loss of native habitat due to urbanization and use of insecticides during and following World

War II cause declines. Super typhoon Pamela in 1976 also was detrimental. Less than 150 birds are known to survive.

Acting Governor Ada recommends that for the Micronesian kingfisher, Micronesian broadbill, white-throated ground dove, cardinal honeyeater, Marianas crow and bridled white-eye, the following area be determined Critical Habitat for all: Northern cliffline of Guam from NCS Beach through Mangilao for a distance of 1.0 km from mean low water. No Critical Habitat recommendations were presented by former Governor Bordallo in his petition for the Guam rail, edible nest swiftlet, Marianas fruit bat and little Marianas fruit bat. He did, however, recommend the following as Critical Habitat: Marianas fruit dove—"From Naval Communications Station around the northern cliffline area through the Anao Conservation area to Mati Point from an elevation of 0' to 500' or for a distance of 0.5 km. from mean high water." Marianas gallinule—"Fena Lake, Agana Swamp and other wetlands."

A copy of the petition is available for examination during normal business hours at the Office of Endangered Species, 1000 N. Glebe Road, Arlington, Virginia, Suite 500.

The Service has determined that the two petitions present substantial evidence warranting a review of the status of these species and hereby announces that it is reviewing the status of the specified Guamanian species to determine whether or not any or all of them should be determined as Endangered or Threatened species. It is also reviewing data submitted on Critical Habitat to ascertain if the habitat specified above for the eight Guamanian birds should be determined as Critical. The Service also solicits Critical Habitat data for the other species. The Service is particularly anxious to obtain information on the status of the above species which occur on other islands as well as Guam to determine whether those species should be listed throughout their ranges or whether only the Guam populations should be listed. This review is being conducted in compliance with Section 4(c)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, which requires that, in the case of petitions, a review must be made and published prior to the initiation of any subsequent procedures for listing such species as Endangered or Threatened.

With this notice of review, the Service is inviting and requesting anyone who may have information on any of the 12 species under consideration concerning

their status, distribution, population trends, critical habitat or other pertinent data to contact the Director. The Service will analyze all data that is now has, as well as any data that are obtained as a result of this review, and will take appropriate action concerning listing and determining Critical Habitat for any or all of these species.

This notice of review was prepared by John L. Paradiso, Office of Endangered Species (703/235-1975).

Dated: May 2, 1979.

Lynn A. Greenwalt,  
*Director, Fish and Wildlife Service.*

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